

3B. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

The rate of *gonorrhea* declined from 88.3 cases per 100,000 persons in 1998 to 86.8/100,000 in 1999 (**Figure 3B-1**). All Arizona counties except Maricopa (**Table 5F-2**) reported gonorrhea rates lower than the national objective, with Maricopa County reporting the incidence rate of 122.6/100,000).

The 1999 incidence rate of *gonorrhea* was approximately 44.4 percent greater for males than for females (102.4 and 70.9 respectively, **Table 3B-4**). As in prior years, age-specific incidence rates by gender indicated that females acquired this disease at earlier ages than males. The highest female incidence rate occurred in the 15-19 year old age group (365.2/100,000), while the highest incidence rate for males was among 20-24 year old (391.5/100,000). The age-specific incidence rates fell below 100 after age 29 for females but not until age 40 for males.

The highest level of *penicillin resistant gonorrhea* (778 cases) was reported in 1989, but the incidence dropped 99.2 percent in 1995, with only 6 cases reported statewide. Four cases of *penicillin resistant gonorrhea* were reported in Arizona in 1999.

The incidence of *pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)* declined slightly from 71 cases in 1998 to 65 cases in 1999 (**Table 3B-1**). Maricopa County accounted for 92 percent of all gonococcal PID cases reported (**Table 5F-1**).

The 1999 incidence rate for *chlamydia* among females (383.2/100,000) was 5.4 times higher than the rate for *gonorrhea* (70.9). The highest incidence

of *chlamydia* in females in 1999 was among 15-19 year olds (2,331.1/100,000). Seventy-five percent of all *chlamydia* cases were reported in women 24 years or younger.

Chlamydia and *gonorrhea* continued to be reported in children younger than 5 years old in 1999. The 1999 incidence rate of *chlamydia* was 9.8 times higher among infants and preschoolers (4.9/100,000) than children 5-9 years old (0.5/100,000; **Table 3B-4**).

In 1999 830 cases of *syphilis* were reported, 130 more than in 1998 (**Table 3B-1**). Sixty out of every one hundred *syphilis* cases reported in 1999 were *early syphilis* (**Table 3B-3**), the stage when the disease is communicable and hence the focus of control efforts. Sixty-two percent of female cases of *early syphilis* occurred by age 34 compared to 47 percent of male cases (**Table 3B-3**). The skewing of the female distribution of reported cases toward younger ages than in the male distribution resembled the gender distribution seen in gonorrhea.

The reported cases of *primary and secondary syphilis* declined from 631 in 1990 to 46 in 1995 but increased steadily to 212 cases reported in 1999 (**Figure 3B-2**). In 1999, Maricopa County accounted for 91.5 percent of all *primary and secondary syphilis* cases.

The 1999 incidence rate of *total syphilis* in Arizona (16.6/100,000) was 66 percent greater than the national Year 2000 objective of 10.0/100,000. Maricopa County had the highest incidence rate of *syphilis* (24.8 cases per 100,000 population).

The number of cases of *genital herpes* declined for the fourth consecutive year, from 2,142 in 1995 to 972 in 1999, the lowest number of cases reported in the eleven-year period from 1989 to 1999. The 1999 incidence rate of 19.7/100,000 was 61.5 percent lower than the incidence rate of 51.2/100,000 in 1995.